diameter of the mesopores has a median value of 2 to 100 nm, the outer surface of said monolithic sorbent being surrounded in a liquid-impermeable manner by a pressure-resistant plastic casing.

Page 2, lines 22-36

Monolithic sorbents are known in principle from the literature; they include, in particular, porous ceramic mouldings, as disclosed in WO 94/19 687 and WO 95/03 256. The term monolithic sorbents in the broader sense also includes mouldings made from polymers, as described by F. Svec and J. M. Frechet (1992) Anal. Chem. **64**, pages 820 – 822, and by S. Hjerten et al. (1989) J. Chromatogr. **473**, pages 273 – 275. Particular preference is given to monolithic sorbents based on porous mouldings which have interconnected macropores and mesopores in the walls of the macropores, where the diameter of the macropores has a median value of greater than 0.1 μm and where the diameter of the mesopores has a median value of 2 to 100 nm.

Please add Figures 1-3 which appear after the new abstract in this response.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3 as follows:

1. (Amended) An encased monolithic sorbent comprising at least one porous ceramic moulding wherein the outer surface of said monolithic sorbent is surrounded in a liquid-impermeable manner by a pressure-resistant plastic casing.

2. (Amended) A chromatographic column or a chromatographic cartridge comprising a monolithic sorbent according to claim 1.